

Pterodroma for *Æstelata* the British List is probably correct. *Harelda* for *Clangula* depends upon whether or not Oken's names are accepted, while the use of *Eremophila* and *Ægolius* depend upon the claim that the prior names *Ercmophilus* and *Ægolia* do not invalidate them. In the use of *Bombycilla* for *Ampelis* and *Hirundo* for *Chelidon* the A. O. U. List is unquestionably right. The first author to fix a type for *Hirundo* was Gray, 1840, who designated *H. rustica*. The International Code does not recognize type fixing by restriction except where there are only two species in the genus, so Forster's action in 1817 amounts to nothing. The case of *Grus* vs. *Megalornis* will probably have to be decided by the Commission.

In the case of specific names *hyperboreus* Gunn. for the Glaucous Gull and *alba* Gunn. for the Ivory Gull are rejected; *tschegrava* Lepsch. for the Caspian Tern is considered perfectly identifiable; *æsalon* Tunstall for the Merlin is rejected as a nomen nudum and *funerea* L. for Tengmalm's owl, as unidentifiable.

This comparison shows that it will now be very easy for American and British ornithologists to come together on matters of nomenclature and that the diversity in names at present is due mainly to different views as to the limits of genera.

We congratulate the authors of the British Hand-List upon the character of their work, and upon the great strides that they have made toward uniformity of nomenclature. Let us hope that all British ornithologists will hearken to the plea that they make and adopt the names here set forth in all future writings upon British birds.—W. S.

Horsburgh's 'The Game-Birds and Water-Fowl of South Africa.'¹

—The first part of this recently announced work is before us. It is beautifully printed on heavy paper, and the plates, printed in colors on egg-shell surface paper, are exceedingly delicate and portray the minute details of plumage characteristic of game-birds with great fidelity, even though the artist has not attempted the life and action, and originality of pose, which we are familiar with in the work of Fuertes and some of our other bird artists.

This part consists of sixteen plates portraying ten Bustards, two Thick-nees, three Snipe and a Francolin with a page or two of text to each. This comprises synonymy, local names, brief description, distribution, and a general account of habits and abundance.

The author is apparently not an advocate of excessive generic subdivision and the Bustard's referred to seven genera in the British Museum Catalogue here all appear under the classic name *Otis*.

¹ The | Game-Birds and Water-Fowl | of South Africa | By | Major Boyd Horsburgh | (Army Service Corps) | Member of the British Ornithologists' Union and South African | Ornithologists' Union; Fellow of the Zoological Society of London | with | Coloured Plates | By | Sergeant C. G. Davies | (Cape Mounted Rifles) M. B. O. U., M. S. A. O. U. | To be Completed in Four Parts | Part I. | London: | Witherby & Co., 326 High Holborn W. C. | March, 1912. | pp. 1-40, pll. 1-16.

The work should prove an important reference volume to ornithologists and invaluable to the sportsman of South Africa.— W. S.

Mathews' Austral Avian Record. No. 2.¹—In this number Mr. Mathews gives brief diagnoses of 108 new subspecies of Australian birds and descriptions of the eggs of 137 forms. A few questions of nomenclature are also discussed: the proper name for the Broad-billed Sandpiper is shown to be *Limicola falimellus* Pontoppidan, and the eastern race *L. f. sibirica* is added to the Australian fauna. Voeg's Catalogue comes in for further discussion and Mr. Mathews adopts still another view as to how it is to be quoted. He regards most of the names in the Catalogue as *nomina nuda* but where possible quotes them from there rather than from the *Adumbratiunculæ* and credits them to Voeg!²— W. S.

Oberholser on the Edible-nest Swiftlets.³—In view of the large number of additional specimens of *Callocalia fuciphaga* that Mr. Oberholser has been able to examine since the appearance of his recent monograph of the genus, he is able to recognize ten instead of four geographic forms of this bird. Of these *C. f. amechana*, from the Anamba Island, *C. f. arophila* from Nias Island, *C. f. mearnsi* from Luzon and *C. f. tachyptera* from Guam, are here described as new.— W. S.

Clark on 'The Ontogeny of a genus.'⁴—In this timely paper Dr. Clark emphasizes the fact that systematists do not devote the careful study to genera that they bestow upon species and subspecies and makes a plea for careful analyses to determine "what genera are logical and valid and what are mere artificial aggregations, brought together solely for the sake of convenience." The origin and development of genera are then discussed as well as the effect of geographic and ecological barriers to their distribution.— W. S.

Wright on Birds of the Jefferson Region.⁵—This is a carefully annotated list of 188 species based mainly upon the author's observations during the past twelve seasons together with those of Mr. F. B. Spaulding.

¹ The Austral Avian Record. A Scientific Journal devoted primarily to the study of the Australian Avifauna. Vol. I, No. 2. April 2, 1912. Witherby & Co. London. Price 1s. 6.

² Cf. 'The Auk,' April, 1912, p. 205.

³ A Revision of the forms of the Edible-Nest Swiftlet, *Callocalia fuciphaga* (Thunberg). By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 42, pp. 11–20, March 6, 1912.

⁴ The Ontogeny of a Genus. By Austin H. Clark. The American Naturalist, Vol. XLV, June, 1911, pp. 372–374.

⁵ The Birds of the Jefferson Region in the White Mountains New Hampshire [vignette] by Horace W. Wright Published by Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences Manchester, N. H. 1911. [= Vol. V, Part I of the Proceedings of the Institute], pp. 1–126.